

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11179 200429Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 OMB-01 /122 W  
-----093917 210139Z /64

R 200412Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8161  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 11179

E.O 11652: NA  
TAGS: PBOR PDEV OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED) US EG IS XF  
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON ATHERTON RETURN: WHAT NEXT?

SUMMARY. ATHERTON'S RETURN HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESS WITH  
FOCUS ON NEED FOR U.S. TO MAKE ITS POLICY EFFECTIVE.  
AHAM, GUMHURIYYA, AND AKHBAR PLAY SAME THEME WITH  
ONLY MINOR VARIATIONS. ATHERTON STOP IN CAIRO  
WELCOMED, BUT HIS REAL TASK SEEN AS BEING IN ISRAEL.  
TO UNDERSCORE THIS, AHAM CARRIED VAGUELY SOURCED  
ALLEGATION THAT ISRAEL HAS RESUMED SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY  
IN WEST BANK AND SINAI. END SUMMARY.  
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1. ATHERTON'S RETURN. APRIL 19 PAPERS REPORT ATHERTON  
TO ARRIVE CAIRO FRIDAY, MEET WITH FORMIN KAMEL SATURDAY  
MORNING, WITH SADAT SESSION SET FOR SUNDAY IN HURGADA.  
EDITORIALLY, PRESS FOCUSED ON NEXT STEPS. AHAM  
DEEMED IT "IMPORTANT" FOR U.S. LISTEN TO VIEWPOINTS  
OF PARTIES BUT OPINED THERE NO NEED SOUND OUT EGYPT:

ITS STAND CLEAR. "ENTIRE QUESTION IS INSIDE ISRAEL."  
UNFORTUNATELY, ATHERTON "KNOWS IN ADVANCE  
ISRAEL'S REPLY WHICH REFUSES ALL PRINCIPLES OF JUST AND  
LEGITIMATE SETTLEMENT". QUESTION, THEREFORE, IS HOW  
U.S. WILL ACT TOWARD THOSE WHO THREATEN PEACE.

2. GUMHURIYYA SARCASTICALLY DESCRIBED ATHERTON'S MISSION.  
AS "EXPLORATORY", TERMING SUCH CONTACTS "A POLITICAL  
LUXURY" INTOLERABLE TO THOSE WHOSE LANDS WERE OCCUPIED  
IN 1967 AND 1978 AND WHO ARE STILL DENIED RIGHT TO SELF-  
DETERMINATION. U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE MORE AMBITIOUS  
AND EFFECTIVE TO TRANSLATE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADVOCACY  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PALESTINIAN HOMELAND INTO "PRACTICAL  
AND POSITIVE STANDS".

3. U.S. PRESSURE. AKHBAR BOARD CHAIRMAN MOUSSA SABRI  
RAN LONG, FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WHAT SHOULD WE  
EXPECT OF CARTER?" NOTED SADAT INITIATIVE PROVIDED  
OPPORTUNITY ACHIEVE PEACE, AFTER ENDLESS FRUITLESS  
WRANGLING OVER PROCEDURES FOR GENEVA. SABRI  
ASKED "CAN THE AMERICAN POSITIVE STAND CONTINUE UNTIL  
REAL PEACE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?". POINTED TO POWER OF  
ISRAELI LOBBY, SUGGESTING MOBILIZING "TO DIVEST CARTER  
OF ALL HIS POWERS AS PRESIDENT". ON POSITIVE SIDE SABRI I  
SAID BEGIN'S POOR IMAGE AND AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS  
IN MIDDLE EAST, SAUDI PETROLEUM CONNECTION, GIVE U.S.  
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WEAPONS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THUS FAR "LIGHT  
PRESSURES" DO NOT "GO BEYOND STAGE OF DRAWING ATTEN-  
TION". SABRI NOTED GROWING PUBLIC OPINION FAVORING  
EGYPT AND CARDS MUST BE PLAYED WITH PATIENCE AND SKILL,  
BUT PREDICTED CARTER WILL COME UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE  
FROM JEWISH AMERICANS. HE IMPLIED CONCERN CARTER MIGHT  
WEAKEN DESPITE HIS "GOOD INTENTIONS".

4. SETTLEMENTS. AHAM CONTAINED VAGUELY SOURCED  
REPORT ("THE NEWS MENTIONED") SAYING ISRAEL, AFTER  
FREEZING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY, HAS RESUMED WORK ON ONE  
SETTLEMENT IN WEST BANK AND FOUR IN SINAI. ITEM GIVES  
NO FURTHER DETAILS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Subject:** CAIRO PRESS ON ATHERTON RETURN: WHAT NEXT? SUMMARY. ATHERTON'S RETURN HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESS WITH FOCUS ON NEED FOR U.S. TO MAKE ITS POLICY EFFECTIV  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PDEV, OVIP, US, EG, IS, XF, (ATHERTON, ALFRED)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014